

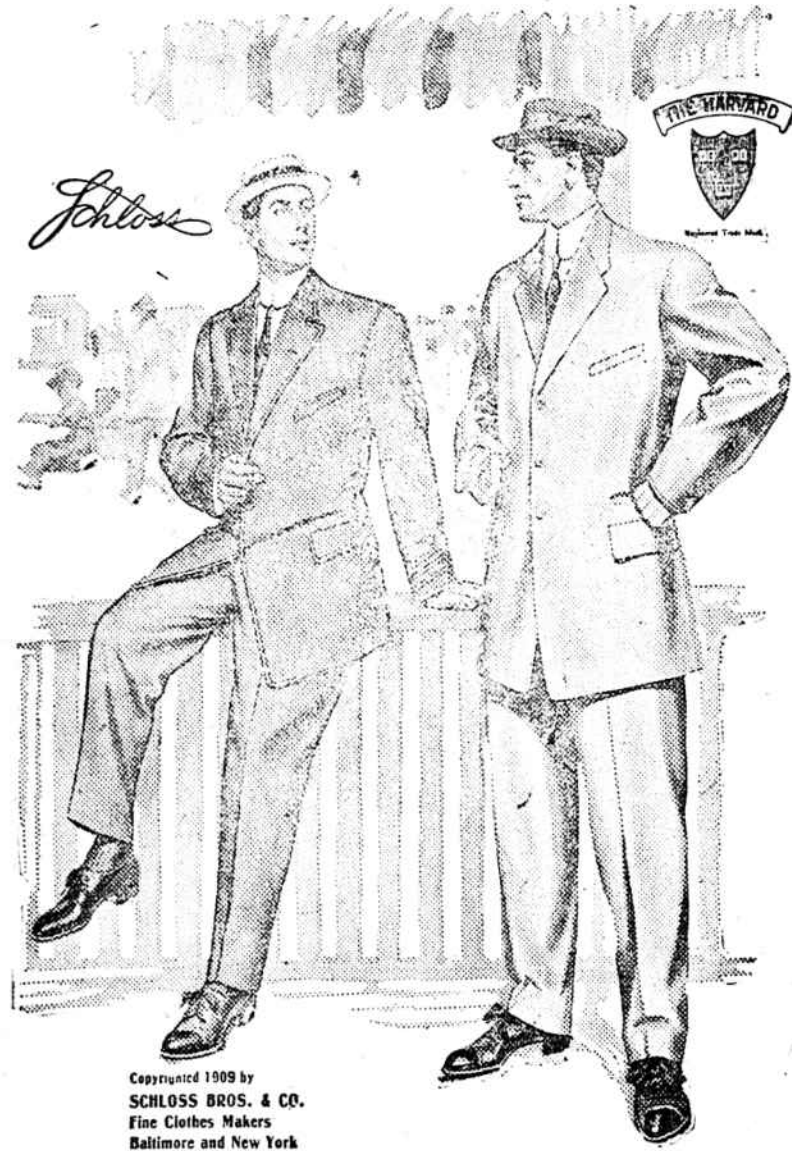
The Abbeville Press and Banner

BY W. W. & W. R. BRADLEY.

ABBEVILLE, S. C., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1909.

ESTABLISHED 1844

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TO PROMOTE TEMPERANCE.

Worthy of the Thought and Efforts of the
Best and Wisest Men.

At the request of our friend, the Rev. A. H. Best of McCormick, for information, we copy the following editorial from the Augusta Herald of last Thursday. The Augusta Herald is a reputable newspaper published in the dry State of Georgia.

Why is it that prohibition does not prohibit? This is a notorious truism. Before we had practical knowledge of it in Georgia we had read of the blind tiger in Maine, the original prohibition state, and of the nation abolishing its Carle Nation in Kansas, the next prohibition state.

Why doesn't it? Because the legislators who make the prohibition laws, for those who stand behind them and let them to enact such laws, are the very legislators or expect to become such. They do not vote for such laws to apply to themselves, but to the other fellow.

This is not reasoning from a "wet stand point," but from the standpoint of clear reason and truth. Prohibition does not prohibit for the reason that the prohibition laws are all drawn with a view of applying to the other fellow, and not to the one who makes or enforces the law. If prohibition was really desired, to apply to all, saint and sinner, rich and poor alike, it could be easily secured. All that is needed is to put on the prohibition law a very few words which are designed to make it impossible or difficult for the poor man to get it, while leaving abundant avenues open for the rich man to supply his wants in this line.

There isn't a truth stated in the Bible more true than this:

Such an extreme law could not be passed. It would be despotic, unconstitutional, wrong. Then, if that be true, it proves that prohibition is wrong. It is not prohibition, but regulation, and the attempted regulation is to keep the other fellow from getting it, while leaving the avenues of access to it open to the man who makes the law and to the man who enforces it.

As the Herald stated, there are sincere prohibitionists, men who do not taste liquor and would, if they could, prevent anybody and every body else from getting it; but these constitute a small class. The great body of the prohibitionists are men who simply desire to prevent the other fellow from getting it.

There are in the land, and there should always be recognized, this class of men. Because one man's facts this does not prove that he approves them. Intemperance is a great evil. The drink vice is a blighting curse. How to promote temperance is a problem worthy of the thought and efforts of the best and wisest men.

But it is not promoted by absurd so-called prohibition laws which are made with a view of reaching only the other fellow, not by such rabid and one-sided prohibition advocates as our esteemed contemporary, The Orlando Star.

"I'd Rather Die, Doctor," than have my feet cut off," said M. L. Bingham, of Prineville, Ill.; "but you'll die from gangrene (which had eaten away eight toes) if you don't," said all doctors. Instead, he used Bucklen's Arnica Salve till wholly cured. Its cures of Eczema, Fever Sores, Boils, Burns and Piles around the world. See at Speed's shoe store.

Mr. F. G. Fritts, Oneonta, N. Y., writes: "My little girl was greatly benefited by (taking Foley's) Orino Laxative, and I think it is the best remedy for constipation and liver trouble." Foley's Orino Laxative is best for women and children, as it is mild, pleasant and effective, and is a splendid spring medicine, it cleanses the system and clears the complexion. C. A. Milford & Co.

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REJOINDER OF REV. A. H. BEST.

Mr. Editor—Notwithstanding your unfair method in writing of our temperance meeting at McCormick, and treatment of my reply, I must ask space for a further word. For the information of the public, I wish to say that it is the editor of the Press and Banner, and his co-workers, and not the people of McCormick, who are responsible for this agitation on the dispensary in Abbeville County springing up at McCormick just at this time. There has been a chapter of temperance workers here at McCormick for some time. At the February meeting we were speaking of some plans looking to the organization of the prohibitionists for the fight against the sale of whiskey in Abbeville County, in order that we might get the people ready for the election in August, a report of this meeting reaching the editor of the Press and Banner; (I wish he would tell the people how he got his information) and he, as seems to have been his custom, felt called upon to strike a blow at what he seems to regard the budding of the fight for voting out the dispensary in Abbeville County, and the bringing in of prohibition. In order to accomplish his purpose, he adopts the method of ridicule and fun making of words, and the suppression of what they know to be one of the greatest evils of our day. Then when I find it necessary to use plain language to answer this uncalculated attack for the facts, I find the space I need about manifesting a gentlemanly spirit when writing for his paper in order to get gentlemanly treatment from him. I am perfectly willing for the public after carefully reading the editor's first article "McCormick's Mutual Admiration Society," March 17th, and my reply to that, and his to me March 31st, to say who failed to manifest a gentlemanly spirit, and who failed to lower the dignity and high calling of the pulpit by methods that you do not approve. I suppose some of the people around about Jerusalem thought when the Master said, "You scribes, Pharisees, hypocrites," that he was lowering the dignity of his calling. Those who are opposed to prohibition legislation or the enactment of any laws looking to the betterment of the morals of the people, are constantly volunteering advice as to what the ministry should or should not do. I wish to say that we did not receive our call from them, neither do we look to them for our commission. Bishop Morrison, when presiding over the session of our conference at Gaffney, in speaking to the report of the committee on temperance said, that if you call working for prohibition going into politics then I want all the preachers to go into politics and work until prohibition wins.

As to the success of prohibition in this State and Georgia: gave the names of parties vouching for the improved conditions under prohibition and the success of the law. And now I call upon those saying that prohibition is a failure to give the facts and the names of the parties vouching for the facts. If I had the space I could give the facts from the very best authority as to the success of prohibition in Knoxville, Tenn., where over one hundred barrooms were closed.

Now, as to the failure of prohibition in Abbeville: In one sentence you say that a prohibition law is enforced better when it is first passed. And then you say that in less than a year after the law was passed prohibiting the sale of whiskey in Abbeville, a Presbyterian elder was going around with a petition to get the law repealed. Now a very pertinent question is, what support did the press of Abbeville give to the enforcement of the law? Again you must remember that it must have been over twenty years ago since Abbeville tried the experiment with prohibition. I suppose there is no question upon which public sentiment has changed more in South Carolina in that length of time than the question of the possibility of prohibiting the sale of whiskey. About twenty years ago I heard a Methodist minister of the S. C. Conference say, "Does prohibition prohibit?" And then tauntingly answered, "No." Where is the preacher in the Methodist Church in South Carolina who would dare to repeat that in one of our pulpits today?

Again: You speak of the time when the Courts held up the dispensary and of the fearful conditions which threatened Abbeville at that time. You must know that the political conditions were such then as to make that no fair test of prohibition. Then, with the great majority of our people—a Tillmanite—was a dispensary. While an anti-Tillmanite was against the dispensary. I understand that Abbeville County has always been very strong in the Tillman column, and therefore, they would resist any interference with the dispensary system by the Courts. But time has taught our people some things, and one of the things our best and most thoughtful people are learning is, however much we may differ on some questions, we must agree when it comes to the suppression of the monster evil, the whiskey traffic. If the people of Abbeville County are behind the rest of the State in this respect then I must believe it is because the press of Abbeville has been all on one side, and have failed to give the people the light as to conditions in other places. For I believe the people of Abbeville are as ready to do the right thing when they see it as any people of our State. You, Mr. Editor, speak of me as a "traducer" of the good people of Abbeville. You hold up the failure of the people of more than twenty years ago to enforce prohibition as a proof of what the people of today would do. You say that the Town Council of sixteen or seventeen years ago granted indulgences to a few white men in order to suppress a dozen or more negro blind tigers in the shape of restaurants, and that the people winked at it. And the inference is that you would have the world believe that the people of Abbeville of today, if prohibition was to be put in force, would sit down and let a few negro blind tigers, backed as they often are by unscrupulous white men, violate with impunity the law prohibiting the sale of whiskey. I have a better opinion of the people of Abbeville of today. Therefore, I contend that it is you, Mr. Editor, not I who must stand convicted as a "traducer" of the people of Abbeville. You say, "If Abbeville is the only place on the Seaboard Air Line Railway from New Orleans to Richmond where whiskey is legally sold, then it is not true that Abbeville is the only place between the points mentioned, where liquor is not illegally sold." No, I can not say that liquor is not illegally sold in Abbeville. But I can say that I am reliably informed that the distillery of blind tigers, who are operating in the adjoining counties in this State and across the line in Georgia. It is a noted fact that the dispensary is the mother of blind tigers. And just as the dispensary of North Augusta is contributing largely to making prohibition ineffective in Augusta, so it is that the Abbeville dispensary is selling a great deal of the whiskey that is giving trouble to the surrounding territory.

As to what you say of the board of missions of the A. R. P. Church, I will say that I suppose that church is perfectly competent to take care of itself. My knowledge of the men that constitute such a board compels me to say that you will have to get up better evidence before you convince me what you say of them is true. In conclusion, Mr. Editor, I want to ask you when you see fit to cut out any part of my communications, that you do me the kindness not to write of the portion left out, or the spirit of it, when the people do not know what I write. You are trying very hard to make the people believe that I have been disrespectful and acted ungentlemanly when I know that my record will contradict any such inference.

A. H. Best,
McCormick, S. C.
April 10, 1909.

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BELLEVEUE.

Mrs. S. P. Morrah came home Saturday, after a week pleasantly spent with relatives at Clemson and Iva. Mr. A. B. Kennedy and sister, Miss Georgia, have moved to the Parker place.

Mrs. Addie Robinson and children of Troy, spent last week with relatives in this community. The trustees of the DeLa Howe estate met at Lethe on the first Friday in April.

Mr. C. J. Britt went to Augusta Friday of last week and was present at the burial of Mr. Dorem.

Mr. J. E. Britt of McCormick was in Anderson Saturday on business. Mr. Harvey Robinson was in Bellevue last Sabbath afternoon.

Mrs. W. H. Britt and Miss Onie Kennedy are in Augusta for a few days.

Mrs. W. H. Kennedy spent Wednesday in McCormick the guest of Mrs. J. E. Britt.

Master John Kennedy was in Bellevue Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Morrah spent Thursday with Mrs. S. L. Wilson of Gratiot.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wardlaw were in McCormick Saturday afternoon.

On account of several cases of mumps in Sandover the K. of P. picnic has been postponed.

Mr. B. F. Mauldin of Anderson was in McCormick Tuesday afternoon.

Mrs. Steadman of Troy who was severely burned sometime ago was thought to be some better a few days ago.

Mr. W. H. Britt was in McCormick Wednesday on business.

We had a nice rain on yesterday; but not enough to stop our farmers from plowing.

We are in McCormick this week the guest of Mrs. J. E. Britt, and failed to get off the Bellevue news last Saturday.

The school children of McCormick had an egg hunt Friday.